(b) if so, whether Railways have decided to complete speedily all targeted projects without compromising with the quality of procurement of materials;

(c) whether nexus between Railway officials and scrap mafia which resulted in a scam worth hundred of crores each year has compelled Minister to discuss this issue with GMs; and

(d) if so, whether Ministry has accepted recommendations made by recently constituted high-level committee to review disaster management system of Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) and (d) The "Corporate Safety Plan" for the period 2003-2013 has been finalized, which envisages an action plan for safety related works in the ten year period.

The high level committee constituted by the Ministry of Railways has reviewed the Disaster Management System over Indian Railways and its recommendations for strengthening and streamlining the existing machinery have been accepted for implementation.

(b) The timeframe for completion of works/projects identified in the Corporate Safety Plan would depend on the quantum of work involved over the entire Indian Railways and availability of resources from year to year. Norms do not permit any compromise in quality of material.

(c) Regular checks are made in the area of sale of scrap and if any irregularity is found, appropriate remedial measures are taken. No incident of nexus between Railway official and scrap mafia has come to notice.

Rail line between Gargara Halt and Shahjahanpur

†1202. DR. AKHTAR HASAN RIZVI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that doubling of railway lines has not yet been done between Gargara Halt and Shahjahanpur which makes a train to stay for a long time to give pass to another train;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when this project is planned to be started?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) to (c) There is no Gargara Halt. However, the Hon'ble Member may be referring to Garrah bridge near Shahjahanpur. The Garrah bridge-Shahjahanpur section is already double line except single line on Garrah bridge. The work of doubling of Garrah bridge has been included in the budget 2003-04 and preliminary activities have been taken up. The work is likely to commence during 2004-05 and would be completed in the coming years as per the availability of resources.

Use of steam engines to encourage tourism

†1203. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to increase the utilisation of steam engines to encourage tourism;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total number of steam powered engines India is having at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Considering the heritage value and tourist potential of steam locomotives. Indian Railways have earmarked Nilgiri Mountain Railways and Darjeeling Himalayan Railways for running metre gauge and narrow gauge services respectively on steam traction. In addition, during 150th year of Indian Railways, steam loco hauled trains were run on Mumbai-Thane, Shimla-Kathleeghat, Bolaram-Monoharabad and Howrah-Bandel sections by reviving old steam locos.

(c) At present, 33 steam locomotives are working on Indian Railways.

Construction of new railway station in Delhi

†1204. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to construct a new railway station in the capital city, Delhi in view of increase in number of rail

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.